

Well done to Dromintee PS Girls

A massive congratulations to Dromintee PS girls Cumann na mBunscol team, which consisted of P7 and P6 girls on finishing their league as winners.

They played absolutely brilliantly and will be attending the finals day in the Athletic grounds on May 1st.

Well done girls.

Special word of thanks to McGuills coffee shop for treating the winning girls team to hot chocolate after their games.

Celebration of Inspiring Young Sports Volunteers

Over 300 people attended the MAC Theatre, Belfast, recently for the annual Sports Inspire Awards Ceremony, a prestigious event organised jointly by Ulster GAA, Ulster Rugby and the Irish Football Association which celebrates young people volunteering in sport.

BBC sport correspondent Thomas Niblock, compere for the evening, was joined on stage by a panel of stars from the three sporting codes: Derry and Slaughtneil footballer and hurler Brendan Rogers, Ulster rugby player John Cooney and Glentoran FC footballer Bobby Burns.

These high-profile guests gave an insight into how volunteers have helped them in their sporting careers and the importance of volunteering in sport, especially for young people.

Irish hockey legend Katie Mullan also participated in a conversation about the highs and lows of her career in sport, how volunteering impacts on players and teams, and its role in driving success both on and off the pitch.

Then it was the turn of the young people to take to the stage to receive their Sports Inspire Awards for completing 50, 100 or 200 hours volunteering in sport.

Ulster GAA President Ciaran McLaughlin commented: “Every year this event showcases the huge impact young people are making in their clubs and communities through volunteering in sport. It is inspiring listening to the young volunteers about what they do and why they volunteer their time and skills to sport. These volunteers are showing the true impact they make every day, building better sports clubs and providing positive outlet for their communities to enjoy spectating and participation in sport. Well done to all the young people and clubs involved in this worthy programme.”

Irish FA CEO Patrick Nelson said: “It is so uplifting to come here to this event which brings together young people from across the three sports to celebrate their volunteering contribution. We call it the Sports Inspire Awards Programme because that is exactly what it is, inspiring young people doing good in their own communities. I congratulate all the clubs involved, and for providing volunteering opportunities for young people aged 14-24 years. Not only do the clubs benefit from the skills, energy and knowledge of the young volunteers, but the young people also benefit from developing their own skills and talents which will serve them well in further education or future career.”

Denis Gardiner, Ulster Rugby President said “The partnership between Ulster Rugby, the Irish FA and Ulster GAA is so important and through events like this we see the great work that is being done by the three Governing Bodies to promote volunteering in sport. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Department for Communities and the Community Fund, which allows us to continue to develop volunteer programmes that are meaningful and impactful. It is hugely inspiring to see The MAC full of young people who are stepping up and helping out in their local sports clubs, making them a better place to be. I congratulate all the young people who have achieved their awards and I also thank the clubs involved in this programme for providing those vital opportunities.”

The Sports Inspire Awards Programme is run jointly by Ulster GAA, Irish FA and Ulster Rugby to recognise outstanding young volunteering in sport. It is

aimed at people aged 14-24 years old and encourages them to regularly volunteer in their sports club to achieve awards for 50, 100 and 200 hours volunteering.

The programme is organised as part of the partnership funded by DfC Sport 'A Home for Lifelong Volunteering', and is supported by the Community Foundation.

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Dromintee captured their first ever Feile crown with a comprehensive win over near neighbours Killeavy in front of a large vocal home support

The victory was built on the combination of a solid halftime lead and a second half goal blitz which put the result beyond doubt.

The home side got off to a blistering start with three scores in the opening minutes courtesy of Lily McBennett, Grace Conlon and Maggie Boden.

Were it not for a series of missed chances the game could have been put to bed early such was the territorial dominance of Dromintee but some poor decision making and shot selection allowed the green and black stay in the game.

Defensively Dromintee were solid with standout performances from Sarah Murphy Aurika Jankute and Ava O'Neill.

Points from Maggie Boden, Grace Conlon (2), Emma Toale and a further strike from Lily McBennett stretched the Dromintee lead with Rosie Fox again hitting the all important first half goal.

While Dromintee established a 1:08 to 0:01 interval lead Killeavy refused to give up without a battle and made Dromintee fight for every ball.

Better ball retention and pass selection in the second half was the key for Dromintee to kick on and a flurry of goals from Caitlin Carnegie, Lily, Grace and a second for Rosie Fox put Dromintee clear before Grainne Laverty wrapped up the three pointers to the delight of the home support.

Lily and Grace tagged on points before a late Killeavy revival saw them net twice as Dromintee ensured game time for all twenty girls on the panel.

The win goes some way to address last years final defeat to Clann Eireann and represents the first Feile success for the club.

Nine of the girls have older brothers with Feile medals so it was a family affair post match as the sibling rivalry stepped up a notch.

The National Feile is due to take place in Connacht on June 29th with details yet to be finalised.

In her acceptance speech captain Lily McBennett paid tribute to the late Marie Rocks and singled out Shane O'Neill for his winter programme work with the girls.

Scorers today : Lily McBennett 1:05, Grace Conlon 1:04, Rosie Fox 2:00, Caitlin Carnegie 1:00, Grainne Laverty 1:00, Maggie Boden 0:02, Emma Toale 0:01

Emma Toale, Hannah McCrink, Rosie Fox, Annie Rice, Caitlin McCann, Caoimhe O'Rourke, Sarah Murphy, Sinead O'Neill, Grainne Laverty, Maggie Boden.

Isabelle Kehoe, Grainne McKeever, Emer O'Neill, Aurika Janute, Lily
McBennett, Pippa Mooney, Ava O'Neill, Caitlin O'Grady, Caitlin
Carniege & Grace Conlon.